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VOLUME V | December, 1951 | Number 6

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Gala Reception Marks 50 Years Of Goshen Library

"The First Half Century," a brief history produced by the Goshen Public Library on the occasion of its golden anniversary, is a striking example of the background of many Carnegie libraries of these United States. The importance of women's literary groups as the originator of a library movement in a community is the jumping off place for the Goshen Public Library story—as a Carnegie library—from 1901 to 1951.

The Goshen library claims two distinctions; it is the first public library in the state of Indiana to be granted funds by Andrew Carnegie and the first of its size in the United States to be recognized.

The anniversary program held on November 16 was highlighted by Jeannette Covert Nolan speaking on "Why People Become Authors." Greetings from the Indiana State Library were given by Mr. Harold F. Brigham. Following the program, at which former trustees and staff members were recognized, a reception was held in the chrysanthemum decked reading rooms.

Miss Marie Stouder, librarian since 1935, is only the third librarian in the fifty-year history of the institution.

"Shall we not listen while they sing
This latest Christmas morn,
And music hear in everything,
And faithful lives in tribute bring
To the great song which greets the King
Who comes when Christ is born?"
From Christmas Once is Christmas Still
Phillips Brooks

Entry Submitted

The assembled recruiting scrapbook which has now been submitted to ALA headquarters for entry in the Field contest at the Mid-winter ALA meeting, was displayed for examination at the Recruiting Committee meeting held during the state meeting.

MILC Opens Doors

The new Midwest Inter-Library Center building was dedicated on Friday afternoon, October 5. The ribbon-cutting ceremony took place at 2:15 before 150 guests, who afterwards assembled in the office space of the Center and listened to four papers comprising a symposium on inter-library cooperation.

Arnold Whitney Rosaaen, librarian of the Evansville Public Library, died in Evansville on October 14, 1951, after a week's illness following a heart attack.

Mr. Rosaaen had been head of the Evansville library since June of 1948. The June issue of FOCUS carried an article on the new salary schedule based on ALA standards which goes into effect on January 1, 1952 in Evansville and which Mr. Rosaaen had worked untiringly to establish. Under his direction the library had opened two new branches and a 40-hour work week for the staff and a 44-hour work week for the building force were established.

Before coming to Evansville he had been assistant to the Chief Librarian, Brooklyn, New York, New York Public Library from November 1937 to August 1942, librarian, the Scranton, Pennsylvania, Public Library from September 1942 to May 1948.

The passing of Mr. Rosaaen is not only a loss to the staff and city of Evansville but also to the library profession of Indiana. His standards of achievement and his goals should serve as an inspiration to other librarians in the state.

Well-Timed Meeting Covers Planned Program

Some murmurings from the northern and central parts of the state indicated some feeling that, should the weather continue to act as outrageously as this year, an earlier date for ILA-ILTA meetings might be desirable in the future. However, for those who gambled, Indianapolis turned on two balmy days for the conference. A crisp, well-timed air marked the shorter meeting of this year. Laurels go to those who planned and carried out a successful program.

Presidents for the two associations for the ensuing year are Mrs. Herbert C. Sears, presiding over ILTA for the second year of her term of office and Miss Marcelle K. Foote, president of ILA, carrying on her term from Hal Sander's unexpired term. Other officers of ILA nominated and elected at its business meeting were:

Indiana Library Association representative on the ALA Council - Harriet Bard: Alternates, Lois Ringo and Elsa Strassweg.

Member of the Scholarship and Loan Fund Committee - Lucile Simpson.

Vice-President - John Moriarty

Treasurer - Ruth M. Burlingame

Secretary - Mrs. Dorothy K. Smith

Executive Board - Mary Louise Mann

(*Continued on page 2, col 4*)

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A Publication of the

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Volume V December, 1951 Number 6

Over & Out

Unlike the superannuated matinee idol I, as editor of FOCUS, am not planning a comeback. This issue of the paper marks my farewell performance. Any bouquets I disclaim but pass on to more worthy hands: to Alice Carter and Grace Beecher, who have been members of the company with me for the past two years; to Mildred and Vern Adams of the Sturgis Printing Company for patient, kindly and helpful advice and fine workmanship; to Hal Sander as old-grad advisor; to our advertisers and those contributors who have remembered FOCUS, their names too numerous to mention.

A brief curtain speech may perhaps include one more prompting. For the sake of a successful paper and your new editor, don't hide your light under a bushel. Librarians, we know, don't have too much of an opportunity for shop talk. FOCUS could serve as a medium for such exchange.

I would have liked this opportunity to introduce the new lead, but casting is not completed. To whomever my sincere good wishes for success.

Harley O. Spencer

NRS Chief Speaks For ISLA Group

Dr. Wight E. Gray, Chief, Navy Research Section, Library of Congress, was the guest speaker at the Special Libraries Association luncheon meeting held in conjunction with the ILA, ILTA conference. Dr. Gray discussed the documentation centers of the United States government which are cooperating in publishing the bibliographic work done in connection with the technical reports of the combined agencies.

Logansport Makes Recruiting News

Page nine of *The Logansport Press* for Sunday, November 18, 1951, should be received with joy and acclaim by the Recruitment Committee for next year. Eight photographs, making up a full page spread, are a lively composite of recruiting at the elementary school level which the committee stressed at the state meeting.

Student librarians, all proudly wearing their arm bands, were photographed in the Logansport Public Library as the climax news publication of Book Week, 1951. Mary Holmes, librarian, reports that four librarians on her staff at the present time followed through from elementary school to public library work.

During Book Week the last of 1900 reading diplomas for the summer program were awarded at special school programs. On November 3rd Summer Reading diploma winners were entertained at free showings of *Davy Crockett, Wilderness Scout*, played by George Montgomery, and two shorts, *The Little Red Schoolhouse* and a Popeye cartoon.

Here & There

From the November issue of Catalyst, the Iowa Library Association publication, is this note on public relations: "Sarah L. Wallace of the Minneapolis Public Library, guest speaker at the publicity luncheon on Friday, won my admiration with her sincerity and enthusiasm for good public relations. She did not offer quick schemes to bolster circulation, but a long-range program of good library service. I remember particularly her caution that the greatest enemy of good public relations is monotony. Each patron must be an individual, not just another circulation statistic. We must remember how libraries looked to us before we worked in one—"

The staff of the South Bend Public Library is being given a long week-end for both Christmas and New Year's, so Miss Baker, the librarian, reports. A check with the local Chamber of Commerce indicated that practically all business houses and offices excepting stores would be closed on Monday, December 24, and Monday, December 31, so the South Bend board has planned to close the library for those two days. Working hours will be adjusted throughout the week.

Miss Margaret Rufsvold has been appointed by Governor Schricker to the Indiana Library Certification Board, replacing Mrs. Harriet Bard, retiring member.

The Kendallville Public Library was the recipient of a gift of $50 from the Harry Futterman Fund, Inc. for the purchase of musical recordings. A record library was established a year ago by Mrs. E. E. McCrary in memory of Mr. McCrary and several other gifts of money have been received for the purchase of more records.

The Indianapolis library Art and Music Department has just received a gift of $100 from the same fund for record purchases.

(*Continued from page* 1)

New officers of ILTA are, in addition to Mrs. Sears:

Vice-President - Mrs. A. H. Moeller

Secretary-Treasurer - Mrs. Hobert O. Bertsch

Executive Committee - Mrs. Fred A. Borns, Mrs. Samuel G. Clifford, Mrs. A. E. Deupree, and Mrs. W. H. Frazier

Increased operating costs in both associations were met in both cases by increases in dues to be charged in the future. Following a report by Mrs. George Blair and Mrs. Hobert O. Bertsch, the trustees association voted to adopt a new dues schedule in their by-laws. Class I and Class II libraries will continue to pay the $2.00 annual membership fee for trustees. Class III and Class IV libraries will pay $3.00 and Classes V and VI libraries will pay $5.00 per annum. Librarians met their need for increased funds by adopting the first of the two alternatives as previously announced in OCCURENT and FOCUS. The first alternative provides for the retention of the $1.50 annual dues for salaries under $1,500, anual dues of $2.50 for salaries between $1,500 and $2,500 and annual dues of $3.50 for salaries of $2,500 and over. Adjustments will be necessary by those librarians who have already paid their 1952 dues under the old schedule.

The business meeting of ILA brought forth the motion which was adopted by the association to hold the 1952 meeting outside the city of Indianapolis, reverting to the pre-war custom of holding some meetings out in the state. Further announcements concerning place will be forthcoming. Invitations from Indiana University, Fort Wayne, and Lafayette were extended at the meeting.

The first general session centered on the American heritage.

(*Continued on page* 3)

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The Honorable Henry F. Schricker spoke on "The American Heritage and Libraries," stressing the need for a dedication by librarians and other citizens to live for this heritage.

Mrs. Grace Thomas Stevenson, a former member of the Evansville Public Library staff, now the Director of the American Heritage Discussion Project of the American Library Association, gave an action inspiring description of the project to be implemented early in 1952. Backed by a grant of funds from the Ford Founadtion, the program will be tried in several typical library situations and will be based on an admixture of the current New York Public Library discussion program, some of the Great Books technique, and special materials peculiar to the subject. Mrs. Stevenson pointed out that some materials will be provided while funds are available and that lists, suggestions and advice on setting up discussion programs may be secured through the project headquarters at ALA in Chicago.

Representing the Trustee Citation Committee, Miss Ruth A. Bean, Evansville, announced Mrs. Herbert C. Sears, ILTA president, and Mrs. Lawrence M. Russell, Elkhart trustee, as 1951 citation winners. Mrs. Russell, the former Audrey Benner, a charter member of the Action Committee and now a member of the Indiana Library Certification Board, was not able to be present to receive her award in person. The award to Mrs. Sears, too, was based both on active service with her local library board as a member since 1927 and secretary of the board since 1942. Mrs. Sears served as hostess for one of the 1951 district meetings and attended all but two as an active participant in the programs.

Demonstrative of the technique he uses with newly formed or lagging high school history clubs, Dick Haupt, a graduate student at I.U. and a part-time employee of the Historical Bureau, sang a group of folk-songs to his own softly strummed guitar accompaniment as a musical contribution to the first dinner program.

A native Hoosier, now returned to the fold, William E. Wilson, gave the dinner audience the author's point of view in setting up three problems meeting the writer of historical fiction, using his own book *Abe Lincoln of Pigeon Creek* as an example. Mr. Wilson concluded that any writer needs a wife with good common sense to prevent him from answering some critical letters which he may receive.

(*Continued on p. 4, col. 1*)

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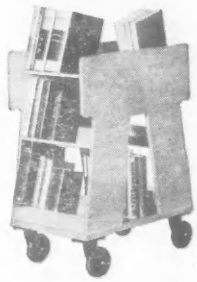

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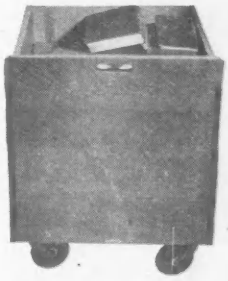

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(*Continued from page* 3)

Mrs. Charles Rowland, Streator, Illinois, State Chairman for Exceptional Children, Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers, was principal speaker for the Friday noon luncheon meeting of ILTA. Mrs. Rowland stressed the responsibility of librarians to all children who must be considered exceptional, the blind, the crippled and incorrigible, as well as the precocious or brilliant child. The luncheon also featured a panel discussion by a group of students from the Frankfort public schools, presented by Miss Edith Thompson, librarian of the Frankfort Public Library, and Mr. Woodruff, Superintendent of the Frankfort schools. Student reader reaction to selected books illustrated the discussion title, "Quality - Not Just Quantity in Our Reading." Miss Elizabeth Wishard in charge of work with the blind for the Indiana State Library and Mrs. A. J. Williams, Vevay-Switzerland County Library trustee, also spoke on the afternoon's program.

The final meeting of the conference, a dinner meeting on Friday evening, was presided over by Orpha Book, president of ISLA. Virginia Kirkus of the reviewing service spoke on "Today's Children - Tomorrow's Readers." Miss Kirkus suggested a list of books which she would find indispensable if she were marooned on a desert island with a group of children. She also selected a group of books from the current year's crop of juvenile titles which she finds especially noteworthy, including *Of Courage Undaunted, McWhinney's Jaunt, The Marble Fountain, Bells for a Chinese Donkey, Ellen Tebbits* and *The 69th Grandchild.*

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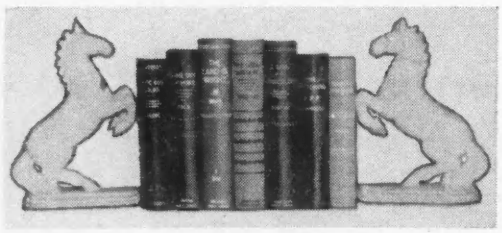

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